27: Munro U-5 (1918) 1918 FJ23 Shilluk FJ23

126 Unfortunately I was unable to stay longer, and as the actual religious ceremonies had been safely completed, I asked Yuzbashi Hussein Farag, Mamur Kodok, to return to Fasheda on the 20th and take note of any further ceremonies. The following information is from notes given to me
643 by him : « Apparently the Ret went up to his palace from the « temporary hut » during the night of the 19th. On the 20th in the morning the Ret left his palace accompanied by a large crowd. He was dressed in a game skin, and with him was the sacred stool. His escort were holding the shield. Nyakang also left his shrine escorted by a great company of people. Then
541 there occurred the mock battle with dura stalks (1). When the two armies meet, the Ret's people as though frightened of the people of Nyakang, ran towards the palace. The young girl of Kwa Okel on this day was with Nyakang's people, and when the « battle » was joined, the Ret seized her and carried her off to his palace.

778 « Nyakang then returned to the Shrine, where he is said to remain till the rainy season. Four persons are left as his escort.

« The Ret is said to stay another three days in his palace and then come
537 out and meet his chiefs. Every orator speaks in his turn and before talking puts his spear on the ground. If his speech sounds good to the people, the drum is beaten as a token of applause. The spears laid down become
422 the property of the Ret. The young girl stays with the Ret till she grows
582 up, and the Ret can then wed her to any Shilluk he pleases. »

P. Munro.

Malakal, February 1918.

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114 (1) Seligman (p. 224) states the mock battle occurs at the khor before the ceremony. No dura stalks were used on the 17th at the time of the mock fight seen by me. It would appear to be one of those instances in which different installations vary.